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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001
Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0326
Comment submitted by Matthew J. Strickler, President, Old Plantation Oyster Company

Submitter Information

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General Comment

Good Morning,

As a small business owner in the rapidly growing aquaculture industry, I feel compelled to offer my comments on the draft TMDL. While some may complain that regulations will cut into their bottom lines, we all need to consider the impact of our own actions on the livelihoods of others.

There will be a substantial economic benefit from these actions to curb pollution, especially for industries like tourism, aquaculture, commercial fishing, and recreational angling. Virginia's decades long passive approach to water quality improvement has resulted in lost jobs and the forfeiture of economic growth in Bay-dependent sectors of the economy.

Reducing pollution will also increase the sustainability of upstream enterprises, making them more profitable now and in the long run. Market trends show that consumers of agricultural products, manufactured goods, and housing care about how what they buy impacts the environment. Farms and businesses that can market produce as 'Bay friendly' will command price premiums. In many cases they will also be able to reduce their costs through practices and processes that use fewer polluting resource inputs. The sooner Virginia and other Bay states realize and embraces this, the sooner we will establish a green competitive advantage over producers from other states and countries.

There are numerous steps we can take now, and should have taken years ago, to improve water quality. It is critical that every sector that has an impact on the Bay contribute to this effort. Increased agricultural best

management practices, addressing nutrient pollution from centralized wastewater treatment plants and septic tanks, as well as regulations limiting stormwater runoff from new and existing development will all be necessary.

I fully support the adoption of the Bay TMDL.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Strickler
President
Old Plantation Oyster Company